

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-07 /071 W
-----150858Z 035450 /14

R 150653Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3862
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1344

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, BG
SUBJ: LAW AND ORDER ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED

REF: A) DACCA 1271; B) DACCA 0833

1. THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED MARCH 12
THAT THE BDG HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH ADVISORY COMMITTEES
ON LAW AND ORDER AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL (DISTRICT, SUB-
DIVISIONAL AND THANA) LEVELS. THE COMPOSITION OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE WOULD INCLUDE EIGHT DISTINGUISHED
CITIZENS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BAR
ASSOCIATION, THE PRESS, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE
NATIONAL WOMENS ASSOCIATION, THE SCHOOLS, SECRETARIES
FROM A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF
POLICE AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BANGLADESH
RIFLES, AMONG OTHERS. THE LOCAL COMMITTEES WILL HAVE
SIMILAR REPRESENTATION.

2. THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF EACH COMMITTEE WOULD BE "TO
PROVIDE A BROAD-BASED FORUM AT ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS
FOR CONSIDERING AND ADOPTING, WITH ACTIVE PUBLIC
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COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE, MEASURES NECESSARY FOR FURTHER
IMPROVEMENT OF THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION AND THE WORKING
OF VARIOUS LAW ENFORCING AGENCIES." THE SPECIFIC DUTIES
WOULD INCLUDE:

-- TO REVIEW THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION AND TO SUGGEST
MEASURES FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING WAYS TO

FACILITATE PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS AND SUPPORT;

-- TO BRING TO THE NOTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT DIFFICULTIES
ENCOUNTERED BY OR GROSS IRREGULARITIES PERPETUATED
BY THE LAW-ENFORCING AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDATION
OF SPECIAL MEASURES TO DEAL WITH PARTICULAR TYPES OF
CRIMES;

-- TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY AND
EDUCATION ON CRIME CONTROL.

THE COMMITTEES ARE INSTRUCTED TO MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY
THREE MONTHS.

3. THE NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEES WOULD EXIST IN ADDITION TO
OTHER RECENTLY ESTABLISHED "CRIME CONTROL COMMITTEES."
ALSO RECENTLY, IN A SEPARATE ACTION, THE DECISION TO FORM
ZERO CRIME ZONES IN EACH DISTRICT AND IN DACCA WAS ANNOUNCED.

4. COMMENT: THE SETTING UP OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SO-CALLED ZERO CRIME ZONES DOES NOT
SEEM TO BE IN RESPONSE TO A SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION IN
THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION (SEE REFTELS ON MISCREANT
ACTIVITY), ALTHOUGH THE PRESS HAS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS
CARRIED REPORTS OF PEOPLE BEING PICKED UP LATE AT NIGHT
IN DACCA FOR "SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENT." INSTEAD, THEIR
ESTABLISHMENT MAY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE
MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION SEEM MORE LEGITIMATE,
OR MORE POPULARLY-BASED, BY INVOLVING CITIZENS ON ALL
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LEVELS. IF SO, THESE MOVES INDICATE THE MLA'S CONFIDENCE
THAT A BROAD RANGE OF PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT ITS ENDEAVORS.
MASTERS

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